FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT SPEAKS TO CLASS OF PALESTINE FIGHTERS

JN1620007Y [Editorial Report JN] Voice of Palestine [clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World at 1521 GMT on 16 February carries a recording of the speech delivered by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the graduation ceremony of a new group of political commissars, named after martyr Nabil 'Abd al-Karim Shihab. Reception was very poor.

'Arafat begins by speaking about the difficult and serious conditions at this time and says: "World imperialism and Zionism, led by the United States, have managed to achieve some victories in some Arab positions. We must admit that some Arab citadels have fallen into their hands." He adds: "This means that the remaining steadfast citadels--of which the Palestinian revolution is the biggest, most dangerous and important--must repulse this imperialist-Zionist onslaught, assume new responsibilities and increase our effectiveness so that we can make up for this serious loss of some Arab citadels and their downfall into the grip of the U.S. imperialism." He then speaks about enlightment among Palestinian cadres and says: "Without ideology and deep faith in the gun we are carrying, it turns into the gun of highwaymen."

Speaking about the "dark tunnel" through which the Arab region is passing, 'Arafat says: "Believe me that we do not care at all if it gets darker or the plot becomes more intense and widespread, because this means nothing to the faithful revolutionary cadre, except greater sacrifices, more sacrifices and more sacrifice until victory, until victory, until victory. It is true, brethren, that we are passing through a dark tunnel. They are trying, in fact, to blow up the bridge of our revolution and all the aspirations of our Arab nation. Hence, brethren, we have basic responsibilities. How can we repulse the plot? How can we confront the plotters in the Arab region? What is happening in our Arab region? Unfortunately there is an attempt to make this Arab nation kneel before what they call peace and what I call U.S.-Zionist peace. We either have to accept this U.S.-Zionist peace and the curses that will eventually fall on this generation or this generation must shoulder its historic responsibilities and fight."

Referring to U.S. statements on the Palestinian question and noting "in 22 days 17 statements and announcements were made by Carter, Brezezinski and Vance against the PLO," 'Arafat states: "This means that we are the basic force which no one can bypass. I challenge you, I challenge the United States, Zionism, Israel, the U.S. agents and the Israeli agents in the Arab area to try to bypass the Palestinian revolution and the fighters of the Palestinian revolution."

'Arafat then speaks about the money spent fighting the Palestinians. He says: "The cost of fighting, which has so far lasted for 3 years--2 years inside Lebanon and 1 or 1 and 1/2 years on the border--has amounted to 3 and 1/4 million dollars, according to our statistics. Fighting the Palestinian revolution, together with the Lebanese nationalist movement, has cost world imperialism 3 and 1/4 million dollars. This means we shall fight fiercely and give those agents in our Arab nation one lesson after another. This Palestinian revolution, together with the Lebanese nationalist movement, cannot be made to kneel, cannot be contained, occupied, influenced or wiped out. We are a basic and active force in this area."

'Arafat talks about the Palestinian challenge to the Israeli enemy and says: "The mentality and the civilization which challenges the Zionist enemy in the region belongs to the Palestinians, who have the potential for challenge and confrontation." He goes on to say: "The Palestinian state is the civilized, historic turning point in the struggle of this region against the Zionist enemy and world imperialism."

Concerning the Israeli proposals for self-rule in the West Bank, 'Arafat says: "Let Begin say self-rule, Judaea and Samaria. I tell him that his logic will collapse." 'Arafat concludes his speech by saying that the Palestinians are not alone but have the friendship and support of "all the free and honorable people in the whole world."

Warns of Lebanese Operations

JN151728Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 February--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has warned against a wide-scale military operation being prepared by the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon.

At the graduation ceremony of a new group of political commissars of the Palestinian revolution, 'Arafat said that this operation is part of the conspiracy aimed against Lebanon and being implemented in part by isolationist activity in the country. He called for repulsing the conspiracy, whose threads have begun to be exposed in the Lebanese arena. 'Arafat expects U.S. imperialism and Zionism to increase their conspiratorial activities in the region in the wake of the victories they have scored in certain Arab circles.

ARAB TRADE UNIONS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT CONCLUDES

Mauritanian Delegation Withdraws

JN161500Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 February--The delegation of the General Federation of Mauritanian Workers at noon today withdrew from the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] extraordinary conference currently convening in Kuwait. The head of the Mauritanian delegation said the withdrawal of his delegation is in protest against the tension which has prevailed in the conference because of the insistence of certain delegations on adopting stands which do not serve the objectives of the Arab labor movement.

Headquarters Transferred to Damascus

JN170732Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait--At its final session last night, the ICATU extraordinary conference unanimously decided to transfer the headquarters of the ICATU General Secretariat to Damascus. The conference also unanimously elected Nasir al-Faraj, chairman of the Kuwaiti trade unions, as ICATU president, and Hamid Jallud, chairman of the Libyan trade unions, as ICATU secretary general.

Comrade Mahmud Hadid, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and chairman of the General Federation of the Syrian Trade Unions, addressed the final session in which he thanked the conference members for selecting Damascus as the headquarters for the ICATU General Secretariat. He praised the spirit which prevailed during the conference.

Comrade Hadid added: The current stage dictates that we must shoulder heavy burdens so that we can preserve the unity of the working class in the Arab homeland.

Conference Concludes

JN1612630Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 16 February--'Ali al-Muwalla, secretary general of the ICATU, this evening announced the conclusion of the ICATU extraordinary conference in the aftermath of the withdrawal of several Arab labor delegations from the conference, including the Iraqi delegation.

Addressing the evening session, Al-Muwalla said: The work of the conference has been concluded in order to preserve our Arab trade union unity, particularly at this delicate phase our nation is passing through. After the withdrawal of several Arab labor delegations, we have decided that it is not in the national interest to continue this conference.

Al-Muwalla called on the ICATU General Secretariat to shoulder its responsibility and to work in the future for suitable circumstances to convene an ordinary session of the conference, in consultation with the member organizations.

BAGHDAD VOP ASSAILS PLO, SYRIA, U.S. ARMS SUPPLIES

JN1620350Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] While escalating their armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, our revolutionaries are facing the Zionist-isolationist alliance in southern Lebanon. As part of the settlement forces, the PLO leadership and the Syrian regime are trying to exploit national Arab efforts in order to achieve a comprehensive settlement with the enemy.

The Syrian regime hesitates to face the isolationist forces and is trying to reach a truce with them, and the leadership of the PLO is busying itself in corresponding with King Husayn and in flirting with the As-Sadat regime. 'Arafat is hinting to the United States and the Zionist enemy that he will take part in the political settlement.

Meanwhile, the As-Sadat regime and its reactionary allies from among the Arab regimes are moving toward imposing the imperialist Zionist scheme--a scheme which consecrates the existance of the Zionist entity, protects it and creates a state of coexistence with it. The scheme also provides for joint and direct cooperation between this entity and the Arab reactionaries in order to protect and strengthen the imperialist interests in the Arab homeland. For this reason the United States will supply As-Sadat and the pillars of Arab reaction with fighter bombers to threaten the nationalist regimes. It goes without saying that those who ignore the Arab nationalist moves and practice deception meet with the regime of As-Sadat on the same grounds, namely, the grounds of forging political solutions with the enemy. Any differences within this framework are only tactical in nature.

The alternative to this condemned, weak approach is the correct and committed revolutionary approach--an approach which is committed to armed struggle and to its escalation. This is the approach of our fighters, who courageously face the enemy and direct painful stabs at its very existence.

Events have proved that the moves of our Arab nation are effective provided there is a will to fight. Just as the masses of Egypt, Tunisia and Lebanon revolt in the face of their executioners, the masses of the Palestinian people are also fighting the Zionists and our revolutionaries are consolidating their presence in southern Lebanon through the revolutionary struggle from the inside [presumably inside the occupied territories]. All this is the revolutionary basis to overcome Arab disintegration. At the same time it is the basis for exposing the stand of the Syrian regime and the PLO leadership, which are pretending they are the pillars of steadfastness while they are in fact pillars of silence in the face of the Zionist and isolationist aggression.

Will the forces of Arab revolution move in support of the fighting forces and in solidarity with real Arab steadfastness in the face of the Zionist aggression? This is the call by our revolutionaries to destroy the settlement approach, to build the unified Arab front and to defeat the enemy alliance and achieve liberation and progress.

ARAB STATES TO MEET TO DISCUSS WEAPONS PRODUCTION

OW1714317Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 17 Feb 78 OW

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 17 (AFP)--Four pivotal Arab states will meet here Monday to draw up plans for producing advanced weapons in the Middle East. Taking part in the three-day meeting of the Arab Organization for Industrialization (AOI), a multinational arms manufacturer, will be the defense ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, the founding members. At issue will be contracts worth tens of millions of dollars to companies from the United States, Britain and France, among others. Created in 1975, the AOI has a capital of 1,400 million dollars owned equally by each of the four founding members. Egypt paid its share by putting up four factories for the weapons production.

A contract has already been signed with American Motors Corporation (AMC) for the production of 12,000 jeeps a year. Output is to begin at the end of this year in an Egyptian plant owned 51 percent by AOI and 49 percent by AMC. AOI is headquartered in Cairo. Another deal was signed with the state-owned British aircraft company British Aerospace for the production in Egypt of the "Swing" guided anti-tank missile. Under the 75-million dollar deal, the factory will be owned 75 percent by AOI and 25 percent by British Aerospace.

Ashraf Marwan, president of the organization, recently said a contract would be signed early this year with France for the assembling in Egypt of the French-German Alpha Jet. This would be a first step toward the construction, in 1983, by the AOI, of a new French fighter plane, "Mirage 2000." Four French companies stand to benefit from such a contract--Avions Marcel Dassault-Breguet Aviation, Thomson-CSF, Snecma and Engins Matra. Among the other contracts expected to be signed this year are two with the British firms, Rolls-Royce Ltd, and Westland Aircraft Ltd., for the construction in Egypt of the "Lynx" helicopter.

KUWAIT

PRIME MINISTER SUBMITS LIST OF MINISTERS TO AMIR

LD161130Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] His Highness the Chairman of the Council of Ministers Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah has sent a letter to his highness the amir of Kuwait. It says:

Your Highness the Amir, may the Lord protect him, Your Highness:

It is your esteemed wish that I should be entrusted with running the government, and I shall comply and carry out that desire.

I have the honor to submit to you the names of my colleagues who have agreed to assist me in this difficult task and the ministerial position assigned to each of them.

Deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of information	Jabir al-'Ali as-Salim
Deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, foreign minister, and acting minister of interior	Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir
Minister of education	Jasim al-Khalid al-Marzuq
Minister of housing	Hamad Mubarak al-'Ayyar
Minister of public works	Mahmud Yusuf an-Nisf
Minister of defense	Salim Sabah as-Salim
Minister of state for legal and administrative affairs	Salman Qu'ayid as-Salman
Minister of communications	Sulayman Hamud az-Zayid
Minister of finance	'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi
Minister of public health	Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abdallah Al'awadhi
Minister of state for cabinet affairs	'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn
Minister of social affairs and labor	'Abd al-'Aziz Mahmud
Minister of justice	'Abdallah Ibrahim al-Mufarraj
Minister of electricity and water	'Abdallah Yusuf al'Ghanim
Minister of trade and industry	'Abd al-Wahhab Yusuf an-Nifisi
Minister of petroleum	'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi
Minister of planning	Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani
Minister of AWQAF and Islamic affairs	Yusuf Jasim al-Hajji

If these nominations receive Your Highness' approval, kindly issue a decree on the composition of the cabinet.

[Signed] Sa'd al-'Abdallah as'Salim as-Sabah, chairman of the Council of Ministers, 8 Rabi' al-Awwal 1398, corresponding to 15 February 1978.

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION ARRIVES; KMEZIC HOLDS TALKS

LD152214Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 2107 GMT 15 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, February 15 (TANJUG)--A delegation of the Yugoslav Province of Vojvodina, headed by Provincial Executive Council President Nikola Kmezic, arrived in Kuwait today for a 4-day official and friendly visit.

During the talks between Kmezic and Kuwait Cabinet Affairs Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, the favorable development of Yugoslav-Kuwaiti relations was noted, as well as many areas in which the two countries' cooperation could be promoted. The Kuwaiti minister voiced his satisfaction with the participation of Yugoslav enterprises in carrying out industrial and utility projects in Kuwait, describing their performance as a good recommendation for

expanding and promoting economic cooperation between Yugoslavia and Kuwait, still lagging behind their political relations.

The role of Yugoslavia, and of Vojvodina in particular, in helping promote agriculture in non-aligned and developing countries was pointed out during the talks. The two sides agreed that the respective economic structures of the two countries offer opportunities not only for their cooperation but also for joint ventures in third countries' markets. Kmezic also had talks with Muhammad al-'Adasani, Kuwaiti minister of planning. They exchanged information on the development of Vojvodina and Kuwait according to their respective plans.

SAUDI ARABIA

INDUSTRY MINISTER LEAVES FOR TALKS IN U.S.

LD161236Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and power left Riyadh this morning for Athens, on his way to the United States for an official visit due to last a few days. Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi will, during his visit, hold talks with officials of the U.S. Government on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the fields of industry and power. His excellency will also meet with some members of the U.S. Congress and the chairmen of the American Shell, Exxon and Mobil oil companies, which are likely to establish petrochemical projects in the kingdom.

On this visit his excellency is accompanied by an important delegation including Dr Mansur at-Turki, under secretary of the finance ministry in charge of economic affairs; Engineer 'Abd al-'Aziz az-Zamil, deputy chairman and [words indistinct] of the Basic Industries Company; and by a number of officials of the Ministry of Industry and Power.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS AFTER VISIT TO IRAN

LD162216Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the foreign minister, returned to Riyadh from Teheran this evening after a short visit, during which he delivered a message to the shah from King Khalid and met with the Iranian foreign minister.

YEMEN--PDRY

DPRK DELEGATION DEPARTS ADEN AFTER VISIT

LD162026Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] DPRK Vice President Pak Song-chol and the delegation accompanying him left Aden this morning after an official visit to the PDRY lasting several days.

YEMEN--YAR

ALGERIAN LABOR MINISTER LEAVES SAN'A' FOLLOWING VISIT

JN121423Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Dr Mohamed Amir, Algerian minister of labor and vocational training, and the delegation accompanying him left San'a' today following a visit to the YAR. During the visit the Algerian minister held talks with the minister of labor, social affairs and youth on cooperation between the two countries in the field of labor in general and in the fields of vocational training and labor education in particular.

REPORTAGE ON PLANE IMPOUNDINGS IN NAIROBI, CAIRO

Diplomatic Efforts Noted

NC161540Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that diplomatic efforts are being made in Cairo and Nairobi to find a friendly solution to the situation in Kenya and Egypt which resulted in the impounding of an Egyptian civilian plane at Nairobi airport and of two Kenyan civilian planes at Cairo airport. The official source stressed that the incident must not affect the firm relations between the two fraternal countries.

Diplomatic contacts have continued with a view to containing the issue since it has no political dimensions, since Egypt wants to maintain cordial relations and understanding with African brothers, and since Egypt believes in its vanguard role in consolidating African unity and Arab-African solidarity.

Ghali, Kenyan Ambassador Meet

NC161733Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has met with the Kenyan ambassador in Cairo.

Our correspondent Hamdi Jawhar reports: [begin recording] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met twice today with the Kenyan ambassador in Cairo within the framework of Egypt's efforts to secure the release of the Egytpian plane impounded in Kenya. Yesterday the Kenyan authorities intercepted an Egyptian civilian plane which was on its way to Somalia carrying goods in implementation of previous deals. Last night Dr Butrus Ghali summoned the Kenyan ambassador to Cairo and asked for an urgent clarification regarding the Egyptian plane. [end recording]

Arrangements for Passengers

NC161646Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 February--Forty-seven passengers of the Kenyan plane which was impounded this morning and which came from Nairobi on its way to London via Cairo left Cairo today aboard an Air France plane. Arrangements will be made for the remaining 114 passengers of the two planes to leave as soon as possible.

Maj Gen Yunis al-Ansari, controller general of Cairo airport, who met with the passengers of the two planes, said that accommodation has been arranged for the passengers at the airport hotel. He has asked the appropriate officials to accord the passengers all facilities and to book seats for them with different airlines.

Two Kenyan Boeing 707 planes were impounded this morning. The first was coming from Nairobi on its way to London with 79 passengers. The other plane, which was impounded at 0435, was coming from London via Rome on its way to Nairobi with 82 passengers. The 22 crew members of the two planes, including Captain Karam Suriyas, captain of the second plane and an Egyptian national, have also been held.

The 139 passengers of the two planes are of different nationalities. They include 61 British, 26 Italians, 15 Kenyans, 5 West Germans, 8 (?Swiss), 6 Americans, 5 from Mauritius (including the minister of culture, 2 Dutch, 2 Canadians, 2 Japanese, 2 French, 1 Swede and 1 Israeli.

Planes To Be Released

NC170526Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Feb 78 NC

[Text] As a result of the diplomatic contacts which the Foreign Ministry held yesterday, it has been decided to release the two Kenyan passenger planes which have been held at Cairo airport.

In the meantime, Cairo has been informed that the Egyptian plane which was being held at Nairobi airport has taken off for Cairo with its crew and cargo.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that this ends the misunderstanding between the two fraternal African states and that the wisdom shown in resolving this issue calls for more optimism about the strengthening of African unity and Arab-African cooperation and about the ability of the African states to settle their local disagreements within an African framework and without any need for foreign intervention.

Egyptian Plane Returns

NC170622Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 17 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 February--The Egyptian plane which the Kenyan authorities held at Nairobi airport the day before yesterday arrived at Cairo International Airport at 0315 today.

One of the two Kenyan planes which the Egyptian authorities impounded at Cairo International Airport took off early this morning. The other plane is expected to leave the airport later today. The Egyptian authorities permitted the two planes to leave following the return of the Egyptian plane.

Pilot Discusses Nairobi Incident

LD170106Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2326 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] In tomorrow's issue AL-AHRAM reports a statement by the captain of the Egyptian Boeing 707 plane which was impounded by the Kenyan authorities. The captain says that he entered Kenyan airspace by mistake, and that he contacted the Nairobi airport control tower and asked for permission to land after he found that he was running short of fuel.

The captain of the Egyptian plane affirms that he was given permission to land and to take off after refueling the plane, but he was surprised when he was at a distance of [words indistinct] from Nairobi he found that two Kenyan Air Force planes were circling him. He said that he had told the Kenyan authorities that he was en route to Mogadiscio.

U.S. MISSION TO DISCUSS ARMS REQUIREMENTS IN EGYPT

LD170104Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 16 February--The U.S. mission which the U.S. Defense Department has decided to send to Egypt to discuss its arms requirements is due to arrive in Cairo next week. The F-5 aircraft which U.S. President Carter agreed to provide Egypt represent the first real military cooperation between the two countries.

It is also expected that Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and war minister, will receive an invitation in the next few days to visit the United States for talks with Defense Secretary Harold Brown and to visit U.S. military installations.

President Carter had instructed U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Cairo Matthews [illegible] Ambassador in Cairo Herman Eilts having not yet returned to Cairo--to convey to Vice President Husni Mubarak the U.S. administration's decision to sell 50 U.S. F-5 fighter planes to Egypt and to inform him of the measures that will follow this decision until Congress approves the deal.

U.S. Charge d'Affaires Matthews informed Husni Mubarak that the U.S. administration has announced its decision and that this matter will remain under discussion for a period of 20 days from the date of the announcement and the date Egypt is informed of the decision. Discussions will follow between the White House and Congress, the committee chairmen and the Pentagon. After 10 days members of Congress have a right to object to the decision, but if 51 percent of the Congress members in both houses do not object to the decision within 30 days, the decision becomes effective.

U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts returned to Cairo from Washington tonight after concluding his consultations with the U.S. administration, Congress and the Pentagon regarding the development of relations between Egypt and the United States in light of President as-Sadat's talks with President Carter and the U.S. Congress and following the announcement that the United States will supply Egypt with fighter aircraft for the first time in the history of Egyptian-U.S. relations.

On the other hand, the U.S. Government today informed Egypt that on Monday Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton will visit Tel Aviv with instructions from President Carter, following the 3-day talks between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Moshe Dayan, with the aim of reaching agreement with Israeli officials on a declaration of principles--as proposed by President Carter in the U.S. statement issued following President as-Sadat's visit--on the question of withdrawal from all the fronts and of the Palestinian people's rights.

Alfred Atherton will then go from Israel to Amman in order to get Jordan's views on the form of the declaration of principles so it can be acceptable to King Husayn's government and Jordan can thus participate in the coming stage of the Political Committee talks.

From Jordan Atherton will fly to Ridayh to inform the Saudis of the decision to supply Egypt with planes and to discuss Saudi Arabia's aircraft requirements. Atherton will arrive in Cairo next Thursday.

An official source in Washington stated that following As-Sadat's talks, the United States is concentrating on the following points:

1. Speeding up the achievement of an agreement on a declaration of principles while taking into consideration the importance of the time factor in a way which allows the other parties to take part in the talks.

2. Informing Israel of the U.S. objection to the policy of settlements as an obstacle to the achievement of peace.

3. Reaching a formula acceptable to the parties concerned regarding the rights of the Palestinian people.

4. Reaching agreement on a declaration of Israeli withdrawal on all fronts, including the West Bank and Gaza.

The U.S. Government has received from its ambassador in Israel, Samuel Lewis, a detailed report on the meeting between him and Begin following Cyrus Vance's declaration that the United States objects to and opposes settlements. The report says that Begin was furious and angry and said that the United States is not maintaining its previous attitude.

The U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv affirmed to him once again that, contrary to what Israel says, Carter has not approved of the building of settlements in the past and will not do so in the future.

ISRAELI POSITION ON U.S. SALE OF F-5'S DISCUSSED

NC1613515Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "An Analysis of Israel's Stand on the Decision To Sell U.S. Fighter Planes to Egypt"]

[Excerpts] If we look at Israel's stand and that of the pro-Israeli pressure groups in the United States and their reaction to the U.S. Government's decision to sell 50 F-5 planes to Egypt and 60 F-15's to Saudi Arabia, it is easy to see that Israel and its supporters are attempting to create a crisis in order to divert attention from the essence of the situation and current problems in the Middle East.

What is the reality behind this fabricated clamor? The fact is that the Israeli Government and the pressure groups supporting it feel that the Israeli stand on the peace initiative places Israel in a very critical position before U.S. and world public opinion. Therefore, they are attempting to divert attention away from this stand. However, this leads us to another question: Can the attention of world public opinion be diverted from developments in the Middle East situation following President as-Sadat's peace initiative? The answer is a definite no. World public opinion yearns for peace in the area because this would eliminate a serious pocket of tension threatening world security and peace. Moreover, world public opinion is fully aware of the real and only bases on which a just peace can be achieved in the Middle East. The most important of these bases is the necessity for Israel to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and for the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination. Israel will attempt in vain to evade this fact. The one thing which Israel may resort to, as it is actually doing now, is to ignore all principles of international law, the UN resolutions and world public opinion and to depend upon force and its huge military arsenal. However, can this force Egypt and the Arab states to surrender any of their rights? The answer is: That is impossible. Egypt will not abandon any of its territory, or the Arab territories, or any of its rights or the Arab rights under any circumstances.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE

NC1619155Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Bonn, 21 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has pointed out that the reason for Israel's intransigence toward the peace efforts is the fact that it possesses a complete arsenal and believes that it can achieve its demands by force. The president advised the Israelis not to wreck the opportunity that is now available for peace, adding that this may be the only opportunity for generations to put an end to the Middle East conflict by peaceful means. The president also said that the whole world, not only the United States, must try to convince Israel of the advantages of peace. This was German journalist (Des Layon), published today by the West German magazine QUICK. In this interview, President as-Sadat emphasized that the vast majority of the Arabs wholeheartedly want peace, and that the rest cannot affect this position. However, he added, even the Arabs who seek peace have doubts about Israel's good will. The following is the text of the interview:

Question: Mr President, you have surmounted many obstacles on your way to peace. In your opinion, what was the most crucial moment?

Answer: It was the decision to go to Jerusalem. I did not know whether the Israelis would understand me or whether the world would grasp the magnitude of this step. I was sure of my people's support, but it was a risk the degree of which one could not predict. Fortunately, however, the whole world, hundreds of millions of people, supported my initiative.

Question: Does this please you?

Answer: This is a real reward. You realize that making peace is more complex than making war. In war one gives the order and everything proceeds automatically. Achieving peace in this particular case is difficult, because the Arab-Israeli conflict has continued for 30 years with hatred, bitterness and violence.

Question: But one must continue. How?

Answer: Actually, the matter is two-fold: first the question of Israel's readiness to withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967; and second, settlement of the Palestinian problem. So far, the Israelis have not agreed to our proposal in this connection. They submitted their own proposal, which we could not accept. It is up to the Political Committee to find a way out.

Question: What role is the United States playing in the peace efforts? It has been said in Cairo that before your trip to Jerusalem you received a written message from President Carter.

Answer: We are in continuous contact. Before my visit to Israel I did indeed receive such a message, and I answered it, in writing too. I do not wish to say now what President Carter said to me, but my answer included the following phrase: "We must now take the initiative ourselves."

Question: The difficulties are not only with Israel. Do you believe that the split within the Arab camp entitles you to conclude a separate peace with Israel?

Answer: This would not lead to peace at all. I am not after a settlement of the Sinai issue. To me, the Palestine question is the key to peace.

Question: Some claim that your position does not permit you to conclude a separate peace because Egypt needs the Arab market to sell its products, and it also needs the other Arabs because of their oil. Do you agree with this view?

Answer: No. We have our own oil. Our affairs do not depend on others. There is no relationship between our desire for peace and our economic requirements. Peace is a sacred mission.

Question: The other Arab states are supposed to be in need of peace, just like Egypt?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Why do these states behave obstinately then?

Answer: Believe me, the great majority of the Arabs seek peace from the bottom of their hearts. As for the remainder, they cannot effect this principled stand. But even the Arabs who seek peace doubt the Israelis' good intentions. It now appears that they are right.

Question: What steps can be taken to change the Israelis' stand? War is not an acceptable solution. Are you relying on the U.S. stand?

Answer: The October war should be the last. I do not want another war. Therefore, the entire world, and not only the United States, must seek to convince Israel of the advantages of peace.

Question: The rest of the Arab states were not smart when they left you alone in your efforts to achieve peace. Does the split in the Arab camp make Israel's position in the negotiations easier?

Answer: I believe it can be said that the other Arab states have left me alone. They are doing what they believe is right. Exerting pressure on Israel is primarily the task of the United States.

Question: Why is Israel adopting such a hard stand?

Answer: Because it has many arms, a huge amount, a complete arsenal. Israel believes it can achieve its objectives by force. This is why I asked the Americans to supply us with weapons--not to attack Israel. Everyone has been convinced of my true intentions to achieve a lasting peace. I will not abandon the world, which has warmly welcomed my initiative, by starting a new war, for example.

Question: Have you risked your position and your life by making the peace initiative?

Answer: This is true.

Question: Do you not fear assassination? What has given you the strength to go through this difficult situation?

Answer: What impels me is the responsibility toward and the support from my people. I suddenly realized that if peace is not achieved, then the coming generations will encounter an almost unsolvable problem. Therefore, I decided to undertake my initiative. Even if it is the last task I carry out as president of Egypt, I will be proud of it.

Question: You are considered a candidate for the Nobel Prize for 1978. Will you accept it?

Answer: If that means that I have achieved peace, I will accept it. But peace, as I have said, is not my task alone. The whole world must cooperate with me.

Question: Despite this, you have to take the next step. In what direction?

Answer: We have agreed with the United States on various steps. I do not wish to discuss them at present. In principle, I believe that patience must be exercised so that all the parties to the negotiations may have a chance to reconsider their position.

Question: Do you believe it is possible to achieve a solution to the Middle East problem without Soviet participation?

Answer: If the parties directly involved in the conflict agree among themselves, I do not know what the Soviets can do to prevent it.

Question: For example, they can secretly, underground, seek to destroy the agreement?

Answer: They tried that before, without success.

Question: The peace efforts aside, are you pleased with what you have achieved in Egypt, in the domestic field?

Answer: Yes, I am extremely happy. The domestic policy is progressing in parallel with the peace efforts. We have two basic problems: the housing crisis and the food difficulties. However, we have plans. I wish here to express my gratitude to the German people and Chancellor Schmidt for their generous support and their understanding of my position. The Egyptians respect the Germans. Chancellor Schmidt's visit to Egypt has given our relations a new framework. I will never forget how the Germans, in particular, supported my efforts for peace. We have also started various agricultural and industrial projects thanks to the assistance of Chancellor Schmidt and the German companies.

Question: There are rumors in Cairo that you wish to crown the peace agreement with a building. What do you have in mind?

Answer: I wish to erect on Mount Sinai, the spot where God Almighty spoke to Moses, a church, which will at the same time be a mosque and also a synagogue for Jews. This will be a place where the three religions meet under the same roof. They will only be separated by walls. I believe this will show that the Christians, Jews and Moslems can live together in peace.

AS-SADAT TO BEGIN 17-DAY DOMESTIC TOUR 18 FEB

NC170745Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Feb 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo papers this morning discuss President Anwar as-Sadat's efforts in the fields of domestic and foreign policy. The papers write that following his activities and his tour of the United States and a number of European states aimed at finding a just and lasting peace solution to the Middle East problem, the president will initiate domestic moves aimed at increasing production capabilities at home. The Cairo papers add: Tomorrow President Anwar as-Sadat will embark on a 17-day domestic tour. This will be the longest tour the president has ever undertaken inside the country. The president is due to start his tour with a visit to the canal and Sinai provinces, where he will spend 1 week inspecting the progress of work in the food security projects, the Suez Canal development projects, the tunnels connecting Sinai with the Nile Valley, as well as the establishment of the 10 Ramadan town. The president will then resume his tour with a visit to the southern valley. He will visit the provinces of Aswan and the Red Sea, the new valley, Qina, Bani Suwayfi and Al-Fayyum. He will conclude his tour with a visit to Al-Jizah Province.

TRADE UNION FEDERATION HOLDS EMERGENCY MEETING

NC161730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 February--The Egyptian trade union movement has reaffirmed its concern for and insistence on the unity of the Arab trade union movement and on the elimination of party and political agentry and trading in slogans. It also emphasized its determination to confront the plot aimed at bringing the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] under the communist umbrella, which is clearly the case at the conference now convening in Kuwait under the name of the ICATU.

This was asserted during an emergency meeting held by the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions and attended by the chairmen of all the general trade unions. The meeting, held last night under the chairmanship of Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of manpower and chairman of the federation, lasted until early this morning and will continue in order to follow the news of the plot which is being carried out in Kuwait under the flag of the ICATU.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Egyptian delegation who walked out of the Kuwait conference. These members have submitted a full report on what happened before the conference and during the opening session on Sunday evening, as a result of which the delegation walked out.

Manpower Minister and Chairman of the Federation Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad held a press conference early this morning. He said that the delegation of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions had gone to Kuwait to confirm the federation's good will and its interest in the unity and strengthening of the Arab trade union movement. He said it also wanted to provide an effective contribution from the Egyptian trade union movement to the work for enhancing the interests of the Arab working class and fulfilling the objectives of the ICATU.

He added: It became evident to the Egyptian delegation in Kuwait that Arab partisan circles used certain trade union leaders to poison the minds of those attending the conference and to enlist them "by various methods and enticements" against the Egyptian trade union federation and against the Egyptian trade union movement because they supported President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's historic peace initiative.

He said that this lackey partisan move succeeded to the point that certain Arab trade union leaders suggested to the Egyptian delegation that it should condemn the initiative or that it should at least withdraw the statements issued by the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions in support of this initiative.

The chairman of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions said that the Egyptian delegation firmly rejected these suggestions because the Egyptian federation and the Egyptian trade union leaders supported the initiative not only as an expression of their own views but also of the views of all the Egyptian workers and people. He said that the Egyptian trade union leaders were elected freely by the masses of Egyptian workers and they truly reflect the feelings and convictions of these masses.

Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad said: The Board of Directors of the General Federation of Trade Unions, after discussing the details of what heppened at the beginning of the Kuwait conference, unanimously decided to reaffirm the Egyptian trade union movement's support for President Anwar as-Sadat's historic peace initiative and all the steps he is taking to establish a just peace in the area based on the liberation of the territory, the restoration of all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to set up their own state, and the fulfillment of the Arabism of Jerusalem.

He added that the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions and the heads of the general trade unions have decided to consider their meeting to be in continuous session until the end of the Kuwait conference and until all details of its work and conclusions are received, so that the position of the Egyptian trade union movement will be defined in this light.

He also said that the Egyptian trade union movement has an integrated strategy to confront the plot aimed at bringing the Arab trade union movement into the circle of communism and partisanship. This, he added, will be made public at the proper time in order to expose all the agents and to show whom everyone works for under the cover of the trade union movement.

Withdraws From ICATU

NC161842Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 February--The General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions has decided to withdraw from membership in the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] after it became clear that the ICATU has been changed from a trade union confederation into a party grouping beset by party differences and regional contradictions.

In a statement issued in this respect, the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions affirmed the Egyptian workers' firm belief in their Arabism, their adherence to it and determination to maintain it.

In its statement, which it addressed to all Arab workers everywhere, to all Arab organizations and to the Arab people, the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions said that it was appalled by the way the situation within the Arab trade union movement has deteriorated and by the domination and mental terror exercised by some ICATU regional member organizations. This has turned the ICATU, its conferences and central councils into platforms for levelling false accusations against Egypt and its trade union leadership, represented by the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions. Because of all this, the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions regrets to announce to the Arab world and the Arab working class its withdrawal from the ICATU.

A responsible source in the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions has stated that the Egyptian delegation to the Kuwait conference, which concludes its meetings today, declared this stand on 13 February when it walked out of the conference after the opening session.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM WASHINGTON

NC151925Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] An Egyptian economic delegation returned today to Cairo from Washington after signing an agreement for a $40-million loan to the Industrial Development Bank from the IBRD. The money will be loaned to owners of small industries and handicrafts industries to finance purhcases of machines, spare parts, raw materials and other items needed for production.

The under secretary of the Ministry of Economy has stated that agreement has been reached with IBRD officials to allocate a part of this loan to finance training centers for craftsmen and unskilled workers in the public and private engineering sectors. He said that another part of the loan has been appropriated to support the public industrial sector, the export capacity of which can be increased by 20 percent.

INFORMATION MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

NC161908Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1827 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Baghdad, 16 February--In an interview with DPA today, Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said that despite its current differences with the Syrian Ba'th regime, Iraq would assist Syria militarily if a new war broke out in the Middle East.

Hammudi stressed that his country in principle is ready to send troops at any time to the confrontation lines with Israel, including the Syrian-Israeli cease-fire line. He said that the Iraqi Army has the dual task of defending its country and the common Arab cause. In any case, there is the precondition that Syria should declare unequivocally whether it supports or opposes a settlement through negotiations. As long as Syria adheres to its present stand, the sending of such troops is out of the question.

Hammudi said there is no prospect for a reconciliation with Syria at present, in view of the current differences between the two rival wings of the Ba'th Party in Damascus and Baghdad.

Referring to the situation in southern Lebanon, Hammudi told DPA that Iraq insists that the Palestinians have the right to maintain a presence on Lebanese territory.

Hammudi said that whether or not Iraq will agree to the extension of the Arab deterrent forces mandate after April will depend on Syrian intentions in Lebanon. He added that Syria must declare its readiness to withdraw its forces from Lebanon under the supervision of the steadfastness front, according to a timetable and in a way that will not cause a power vacuum in Lebanon.

Hammudi finally stressed that there is complete agreement within the Revolution Command Council [RCC] that opposition to any peaceful settlement in the Middle East through negotiations should continue and that a reconciliation with Syria is possible if Syria abandons the policy of negotiations, which is in violation of the interests of the Palestinian people and the Arabs in general.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON IRAQI-SYRIAN RELATIONS

LD162354Y Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Feb 78 pp 1,7 LD

[Part six of serialized article: "The Aftermath of As-Sadat's Visit to the Occupied Territories: What Happened and What Is Required at the Present Stage"]

[Text] When President Houari Boumediene visited Iraq on 3 January 1978, the question of Syrian-Iraq relations was the main topic of discussion at two meetings he held with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Comrade Saddam Husayn.

Briefly, President Boumediene's opinion is that the establishment necessitates the solving of disputes between Iraq and Syria, particularly with regard to the question of convening a summit meeting in Baghdad. President Boumediene believes that a summit meeting between Iraq and Syria is necessary in order to solve these disputes or discuss them seriously prior to discussing the setting up of the front.

The Iraq command's opinion is that we do not view the problem in the same manner. The Iraqi-Syrian dispute is not the cause but the result of the Syrian regime's attitude toward basic Arab issues as well as its attitude toward Iraq.

This attitude is characterized by attempts to harm Iraq and plot against it with nonrationalist methods, including--in addition to those we mentioned in previous articles--its attempts to stir up and give support to the sabotage groups of the remnants of the defunct agent pocket [the Kurds]. The regime established camps for living and military training for them on Syrian territory and gave them military support and protection.

Therefore, in our view, the more effective way is to first try to reach an agreement on the principles of the front, and if we and the Syrian regime and the rest of the parties agree on these principles, then naturally, such an agreement would have a positive effect on Iraqi-Syrian relations, since it would be illogical for the Syrian regime's actions toward us to continue if we are in agreement on a front involving joint political and military tasks.

The command affirmed that the discussion of issues related to relations will, of course, not include the discussion of party matters, since these are not subject to discussion.

After long discussions between the Iraq and Algerian commands, and as a substitute for the summit conference which President Boumediene proposed, the command proposed a meeting on the level of officials delegated by the Iraqi RCC and officials delegated by the Syrian Government to discuss bilateral problems between the two countries and to try to solve them, provided that the meeting be held in Algeria and under its supervision so that it could witness it.

President Boumediene left Iraq carrying this proposal. After his tour of Saudi Arabia, the gulf states and Jordan, Boumediene returned to Damascus on 10 January 1978. The following day [Algerian foreign minister] Abdelaziz Bouteflika arrived in Baghdad. He reiterated the same view regarding a summit conference. President al-Bakr told him that Iraq still believed that the meeting should be held on the level of delegated officials from both governments.

On 22 January we received a telegram from the Algerian Government saying that the Syrian Government had agreed to meet on the level proposed. The Algerian Government asked us to set the date and place of the meeting and give the names of the delegates. We cabled Algeria suggesting that the meeting be held on Sunday, 29 January, and we asked to be informed of the names of the Syrian Government delegation. In the meantime the command was considering the formation of the delegation and the points it would discuss. It decided to give the delegation that would go to Algeria full powers to resolve all the problems relating to bilateral relations.

At the same time reports were being received about holding a summit conference in Algeria for the parties that attended the Tripoli conference. In fact, the reports mentioned specific dates for meetings in the following manner:

The meeting of the Iraqi-Syrian committee on 29 and 30 January; the meeting of foreign and defense ministers of the parties to the Tripoli summit on 31 January and 1 February; and the summit meeting on 2 and 3 February. We learned from our own sources that the source of these reports was the Syrian Government and Yasir 'Arafat. It is understood that earlier a special Algerian envoy had visited Damascus on 23 January.

On Thursday, 26 January, we received a cable from our embassy in Algiers saying that the Algerian Foreign Ministry summoned the Iraqi ambassador and formally conveyed to him an invitation to Iraq to attend the summit conference in Algiers, and set the dates that were earlier reported in the Lebanese press. The cable also said that an Algerian envoy would arrive in Baghdad.

When the Algerian envoy met with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr on Saturday, 28 January, in Baghdad and handed him the invitation, President al-Bakr asked him whether this meeting was a continuation of the Tripoli meeting. The envoy answered in the affirmative. President al-Bakr told him: You know that we have withdrawn from the Tripoli conference for the reasons we have already explained to you. Therefore, we cannot attend this meeting. The president then asked him about the topics to be discussed at the conference and whether there was any charter or specific agenda. The envoy said that these matters would be discussed at the meeting. President al-Bakr told him that we would determine our attitude in light of the outcome of the conference. He also told him that he would send a message to President Boumediene explaining fully Iraq's attitude toward this matter. And indeed, a message was prepared and handed over to the Algerian envoy on the evening of the same day.

This was the sequence of events from As-Sadat's visit up to the convening of the Algiers conference. There are, however, other matters that we prefer not to discuss, but we will deal with them at the appropriate time.

The question that was raised following the announcement that a conference would be held in Algiers was: What are the justifications for the invitation and why was there no response to the Iraqi initiative?

Iraq sent a formal invitation to several countries with whom it has fraternal relations. The invitation was accompanied by a draft charter. Iraq, as was stated in the president's message, expressed its full readiness to discuss with an open mind and heart the Iraqi proposals with the invited parties. Why, then, was there no response to this invitation? It was said that the reason was the Syrian regime; that the head of the Syrian regime could not possibly go to Baghdad as long as Iraqi-Syrian relations continued as they were. Our answer to this is that we responded to President Boumediene's wish to convene a meeting with a delegation from the Syrian Government, and we fixed 29 January as the date of the meeting. Then what excuse remained for the Syrian regime not to come to Baghdad for such a meeting if it really wished to pursue a new policy consistent with the basic principles proposed by Iraq in its draft? Who is creating procedural obstacles? Who is placing obstaclesoon the path to agreement?

Any fair person familiar with the sequence of events can easily reach a conclusion.

We would like here to raise an important point which was the subject of discussion--namely, the procedural matters concerning the venue of the conference.

We did not cling to procedural matters nor did we ever hesitate to respond to an invitation for a meeting in an Arab capital if we find the basis of such meeting convincing to us. There was an invitation by an Arab country [Iraq], which did everything possible to remove the obstacles that might prevent a response to such an invitation. Why was there no response to this invitation? We do not want an answer for ourselves, but for the Arab masses, in the hope that they will be convinced.

The other point that must be raised and should not be ignored is: We wonder why the Syrian regime refused in such a manner and why the brothers went along with this refusal?

If we look upon the matter from a national angle, the Syrian regime is required to do all it can for the sake of concentrating Arab resources that can help it in facing the Zionist aggression and imperialist plans. This makes it incumbent upon Syria to take the initiative to stop the harm it is causing to Iraq and to try to establish the best relations with it.

If we look upon the matter from a regional aspect, it is the Syrian regime that is in need of Iraq's military, political and economic support. How, then, can the Syrian regime explain its "refusal" to meet with Iraq and to visit Iraq and why should the brothers agree with it and arrange matters for it in the manner it wishes?

As we pose these questions we do not want an answer to them for ourselves. Let the answer be given to the Arab masses; perhaps they will be convinced.

IRANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS OIL INSTALLATIONS

JN161811Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Staff Gen Gholam Reza Azhari, chief of staff of the Iranian Army and the accompanying delegation, arrived today in At-Ta'mim Governorate to observe the progress of the governorate in all fields. The Iranian delegation was received upon arrival at the city of Kirkuk by a number of military and civilian officials in the governorate. The delegation toured the industrial installations of the General Northern Oil Corporation and saw how the crude oil is extracted and refined. The delegation was briefed on the development of the corporation since the glorious nationalization decision of 1 June 1972.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES BULGARIAN WOMEN'S DELEGATION

JN161325Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1311 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 February--Comrade Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met here today with Madame Elena Lagadinov, chairman of the Committee of Bulgarian Women and member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP], and the members of her delegation.

During the meeting, which was attended by Mrs Marib Ahmad Kamal, member of the executive office of the Iraqi Women's Federation, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad, Comrade ar-Razzaz reviewed the major events which have taken place in Iraq since the 17 July Revolution under the leadership of the party. He also outlined the gains and achievements which the party and revolution leadership has achieved for Iraqi women to enable them to participate effectively in the process of reconstruction and development.

Comrade ar-Razzaz referred to the existing strong ties between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the BCP and also between Iraq and Bulgaria as well as their contribution to the efforts to confront the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plans against the revolution, liberation and socialist forces in the Arab homeland and the world at large.

Comrade ar-Razzaz stressed the importance of the exchange of visits between the mass organizations in the two countries in developing and strengthening the ties between the Iraqi and Bulgarian peoples and in intensifying the struggle against the multifaceted imperialist and Zionist plots.

Madame Lagadinova, praised the progress achieved under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in all fields, especially the gains which enabled the Iraqi women to participate in expediting the process of socialist transformation and the building of a new generation capable of assuming its historic responsibilities.

Madame Lagadinova reviewed the activities of the Committee of Bulgarian Women in the national and international fields and its effective role in planning, reconstruction and the struggle against imperialism and reaction.

YOUTH MINISTER LEAVES FOR BERLIN MEETINGS

JN1711143Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1041 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 February--A delegation led by Karim Mahmud Husayn, minister of youth and president of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth, left Baghdad this morning for Berlin to attend the WFDY meetings scheduled to begin there tomorrow.

Minister Husayn stated that the Iraqi delegation will hold discussions with other delegations at the conference to emphasize the Palestinian Arab rights and to outline Iraq's experiment and the achievements realized in the political, economic and social fields by the July 17 Revolution under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Several studies and research papers dealing with youth and ways to develop their capabilities and prepare them to participate in the construction and development process throughout the world will be discussed at the meeting.

The Iraqi delegation will also attend the meetings of the preparatory committee for the 11th World Youth and Students Fair to be held in Havana. Iraq is a member of this preparatory committee.

The delegation includes four representatives of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth and the Ministry of Youth.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR TUNIS CONFERENCE

JN1708059Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 February--Finance Minister Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah left for Tunis this morning to head Iraq's delegation at the meetings of the 24th session of the Arab Economic Council, scheduled to begin there on Sunday.

In a press statement prior to his departure, Dr 'Abdallah said that the 5-day session will assess joint Arab action and will formulate the basis of a new agreement for Arab economic cooperation. The session will also discuss the impediments obstructing the flow of Arab capital to the Arab area and the basis on which the Arab monetary and financial market is founded. It will discuss the progress achieved so far by the Arab-European dialog, examine Arab-African cooperation and draft an Arab program for technical cooperation.

The finance minister added that Iraq previously submitted a comprehensive study on the strategy of joint Arab economic action.

The delegation is made up of representatives of the ministries of trade, foreign affairs, planning, finance and oil, in addition to representatives of the Iraqi Central Bank.

BRIEFS

AIR TRANSPORT WITH QATAR--Baghdad, 15 February--Iraq and Qatar today signed an agreement for air transport providing for the operation of regular air flights between the two countries. The two sides initialled the agreement in Doha last year. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN]

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES SYRIAN, SAUDI AMBASSADORS

JN170728Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Feb 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--Prime Minister Mudar Badran yesterday received 'Abd al-Karim as-Sabbagh, Syrian ambassador in Amman. The discussion during the meeting dealt with developments in the current Arab situation and the fraternal relations between the two countries. Badran also received in his office yesterday the Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN RECEIVES SAUDI PRINCE

JN162107Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at his office at noon today His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad Al-Faysal al Sa'ud. They discussed the strong relations of cooperation existing between Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in various fields. They also discussed the current situation in the area. The two also discussed the question of the Jordanian Islamic Bank which will be established soon. The meeting was attended by Chief Chamberlain His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, and Minister of AWQAF, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places Kamil ash-Sharif.

His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad al-Faysal arrived in Amman today to participate in the conference on science and technology which will begin its meetings in Amman the day after tomorrow, Saturday. He was received at the airport by his royal highness the chief chamberlain, the minister of AWQAF, and several high-ranking officials.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN RECEIVES FRENCH DELEGATION

JN161633Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Regent and Crown Prince Hasan today met at his office with a delegation representing a consortium of financial, advisory and executive firms in France now visiting Jordan. During the meeting, the crown prince concentrated his talk on the most important production projects in Jordan: namely potash, phosphate, and chemical fertilizers.

The crown prince also explained to the delegation the privileges of the Jordanian free zones and the investment opportunities open to foreign economists under the new Jordanian investment law. The crown prince also reviewed economic relations between Jordan and France and means of strengthening and developing them.

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS AL-AKHBAR FOR VIOLATION

JN161515Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman 16 February--The Jordanian Government has decided to suspend the newspaper AL-AKHBAR for 3 days as of tomorrow, Friday, because the paper published advertisements concerning jobs abroad, thus violating orders issued in this connection.

LAW POSTED ON FORMATION OF SECURITY COURT

NC161206Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Lebanese authorities and political circles on various levels today concerned themselves with the security situation following the signing by His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis of the law on the formation of the Special Security Court.

The prime minister's office received from the president's office at noon today Law No 2/78, dated 15 February 1978, on the formation of the Special Security Court. The law became effective after being posted at the entrance of the prime minister's office. Political circles regard this as a step which will strengthen the security process and is an indication of the determination to continue to consolidate stability in the country and to overcome any individual incidents that might jeopardize stability, especially now that the military and civilian judicial quarters have begun taking the necessary measures to establish the special court and the investigations to determine blame for the recent incidents.

SECURITY COURT, INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED

NC161742Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The president of the republic has issued a decree appointing the president and one member of the Special Security Court and three members of the Special Security Court's Investigating Committee [from the Lebanese Army]. He has also issued a decision appointing the chairman and one member of the Investigating Committee and three members of the Special Security Court from the Arab deterrent forces command officers.

Staff Colonel Georges Qazzi has been appointed president of the Special Security Court and Judge Turbay Rahmah as a member of the court. Colonel Zayn Makki, Colonel Butrus Yunis and Lt Col Adib Sa'd have been appointed members of the Special Security Court's Investigating Committee.

Brigadier General Nasir ad-Din Nasir has been appointed chairman of the Investigating Committee and Lt Col Muhammad Ghanim as a member of the committee. Colonel 'Adnan Badr al-Hasan, Col 'Izzat Zaghaylt and Lt Col Dhib Zahir have been appointed as members of the Special Security Court.

SYRIANS FAIL TO ATTEND LEBANESE-SYRIAN MEETING

JN161320Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1308 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 16 February--The Syrian regime's delegation failed to appear today at the meeting of the joint Lebanese-Syrian committee formed last week to investigate the armed clashes between the Syrian forces, on the one hand, and certain elements of the Lebanese Army and the Phalangist and National Liberal militia, on the other. No reason has been given for the failure to attend.

Committee Holds Meeting

JN161655Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1642 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 February--The Joint Lebanese-Syrian Investigation Committee held a meeting this evening following the suspension of its meetings owing to the absence of the Syrian regime's delegation from the meeting scheduled for today.

Several contacts have taken place. The president of the republic held meetings to contain the consequences of the incident involving an assault on a patrol of the Syrian deterrent forces yesterday, the incident which seemed to be behind the absence of the Syrian regime's delegation from the scheduled meeting. The committee was formed last week to investigate the armed clashes between the Syrian deterrent forces on the one hand and the Phalangist and National Liberal militia on the other.

SARKIS, AL-HUSS CONTINUE MEETINGS ON SECURITY

NC1612147 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting at 1000 today. It was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Fu'ad Butrus.

At 0900 today President Ilyas Sarkis met with Education, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Dr As'ad Riziq. He also met with the Arab deterrent forces commander, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib. At 1100 Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss joined the working meeting. Al-Huss said after leaving the republican palace: We discussed the security situation and we shall meet with President Ilyas Sarkis again this evening. President Sarkis has also met with Lebanese Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and former Chamber of Deputies Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran. President Ilyas Sarkis has also met with former President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss held a meeting with Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman this morning. They reviewed the security situation. After the meeting Minister Salman said: We hope that the security situation will improve. We are doing everything in our power in this respect.

AL-AHRAR: PHALANGISTS MAKE SECRET VISIT TO SYRIA

JN1710587 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1026 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 February--The rightwing newspaper AL-AHRAR reported today that a Phalangist delegation made up of Deputies Edmond and George Sa'adah paid a secret visit to Damascus for talks with Syrian officials on recent events in Lebanon.

The paper stated that the Phalangist delegation, which returned to Beirut yesterday, was made aware of the Syrian officials' desire to prevent any clashes between the forces of the Syrian regime and those of the rightists.

AL-BATH: U.S. ARMS TO EGYPT, ISRAEL PART OF PLOT

JN170722Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Peace of U.S. interests," the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes the following: U.S. interests alone are capable of defining the political stands of the U.S. Government. The peace the United States is attempting to achieve in the area is one which, based on military power, would serve U.S. interests and which would subjugate the area's states to the will of U.S. forces. In light of the above, U.S. President Carter's approval--announced 2 days ago by Vance--of the sale of 50 F-5 fighter planes to Egypt and of a total of 115 [number as heard] F-15 and F-16 fighters to Israel constitutes a point in the new U.S. program which is being drafted for Egypt's as-Sadat and Israel to implement in the Arab and African areas in a way that will serve these U.S. interests.

The sale will also provide a yardstick to measure the soundness of the Egyptian regime's intentions and of the extent of its capability to implement the tasks that could be entrusted to it after As-Sadat had undertaken not to use these fighters against Israel and after he had expressed his readiness to implement U.S. tasks on the African Continent after having meticulously implemented such tasks in the Arab area. Accordingly, this sale could be considered a reserve to support the scheme of the tripartite pact which is to be ratified among the Egyptian regime, the United States and Israel and thus to transfer the conspiratorial scheme against the Arab cause to new areas. This would bring this plot closer to its final stages which are being calmly prepared by the United States through the shuttle trips by Alfred Atherton, who is benefiting from the experience of Kissinger's previous tours.

AL-BA'TH adds: Therefore, the explanation of what is taking place now within the content of the Egyptian-Israeli meetings and within the content of the tactics of the visits among Egypt, Israel and the United States is given by the fact that the parties to the plot are concocting a new stage of their conspiratorial scheme aimed at weakening the Syrian position which confronts them and which has so far managed to thwart all their plots. Syria, however, has managed in the past to withstand all kinds of pressure and to confront all plots and will unswervingly confront the new stage of this plot. Syria is well aware of the course to foil this plot and is supported by its intrinsic power and its faith and confidence in the Arab masses from whom it derives its power.

SAUDI ENVOY ARRIVES WITH KHALID MESSAGE

JN161253Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, Saudi Foreign Ministry under secretary, arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and by the Saudi Arabian ambassador.

The correspondent of SANA has learned that Shaykh ath-Thunayyan is carrying a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to President Hafiz al-Asad.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES NEW BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR

JN151449Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 February--Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi received at 1330 today Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus Stefan Georgiev Mitev on the occasion of his assuming his duties as his country's ambassador to Syria.

LIBYA

FOREIGN SECRETARY RECEIVES KENYAN, ZIMBABWE OFFICIALS

LD162230Y Tripoli Voice of the Arabic Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] At noon today Foreign Secretary 'Ali at-Turayki received the Kenyan deputy foreign minister, who informed him of the Egyptian president's interference in domestic African affairs. He also informed him that Kenya forced down an Egyptian plane carrying tons of arms and ammunition and that Egypt has detained two Kenyan civilian planes while on normal flights between Kenya and Europe.

Dr at-Turayki also received the head of the Algerian delegation to the meetings of the African liberation coordination committee. This afternnon Dr at-Turayki, foreign secretary and current chairman of the African liberation coordination committee, met with Robert Mugabi, the cochairman of the Patriotic Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe and chief of Zimbabwe delegates to the committee meetings.

A JANA correspondent has learned that discussion during the meeting covered the latest developments in Zimbabwe and the role of the African foreign ministers conference in bolstering the African struggle in this area against the racists.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA COMMENDS POLICE FOR COMBATING DISTURBANCES

LD161247Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 12 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba has sent the following message to the officers and men of the national police force:

The country has recently witnessed some painful events which transformed the capital into an arena of subversion, plunder and violence. Anarchy spread. Fires broke out. There was loss of life. Public order suffered. Law was trampled. Public and private property was damaged. Citizens were plunged into consternation, terror and fear.

These events were premeditated by those who had used deception in their desire to overthrow the regime and precipitate the country into an abyss.

The forces of order faced these events with determination and self-reliance, stopping the destructive tide and intervening before the ringleaders of these riots, the like of which has never occurred for the past 22 years, and stopping disorder and violence.

In this situation I warmly thank all the structures of the national police force and all its officers and men for their courage, firmness and honorable behavior and for doing their duty to the best of their abilities. I express my regard for their great qualities and the zeal which they have shown in maintaining order, upholding law and protecting lives and property.

Signed: Habib Bourguiba, President of the Republic. 12 Feb

NOUIRA DISCUSSES DOMESTIC SCENE, FOREIGN ISSUES

LD161631Y Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 15 Feb 78 p 15 LD

[Alberto Miguez interview in Tunis with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira: "Tunisia: 'Despite the Scratches We Are Still Smiling'"--date not given]

[Excerpt] Tunis, 9 February--[Question] The government which you head and the Destourian Socialist Party (the only party) are accusing the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] of organizing a plan which went far beyond a peaceful general strike. Did this plan really exist?

[Answer] A veritable insurrection took place in Tunisiaon 26 January, with an ultimatum from UGTT Secretary General Habib Achour. Achour threatened to set fire to the capital unless the troops withdrew. It was no game. They were aiming at something more than protesting against certain situations. They wanted to put an end to the regime. And there was, of course, a premeditated plan, which was subsequently implemented irrationally.

[Question] Will you draw any political conclusion from the events?

[Answer] But what political conclusion do you expect us to draw? The UGTT had no kind of political, economic or social demand to cause it to act as it did. They themselves have acknowledged that it was a political strike and not one in support of a wage claim. The UGTT signed the social pact with the government, accepted the fifth development plan and disputed neither the economic model whic.. we advocate nor the kind of society for which we are struggling. Under these circumstances, what lesson can we learn from the insurrection?

[Question] But at least you will have observed that a large section of the young people would like to take part more actively in the country's political progress....

[Answer] This regime has done everything that it could for the young people. We are perhaps the country which spends most on education in the world (32 percent of the national budget and 8 percent of GNP) and pays most attention to resolving the dreadful problem of youth unemployment. Out of a total population of 6 million people, 1.2 million young people attend classes at universities or schools. How many Third World countries can show this record? And yet young people very rarely take part in politics and join our party. When this is suggested to them they become annoyed, as if we were attempting to trick them.

[Question] It is said that the fifth development plan which you are promoting is a dream and that its objectives are unattainable for Tunisia.

[Answer] I do not agree, of course, with such an assessment. We are attempting to achieve three or four perfectly feasible things with our plan. The first of these is to satisfy all the extra applications for employment and put an end to underemployment.

If things continue as they have, we will achieve this in 1981. The plan envisages the creation of 164,000 jobs, and this is not excessive. The present rate of unemployment is 10 percent, and since we are a developing country, this does not seem excessive either. We are also aiming with our fifth plan to develop the manufacturing industries rapidly, extend irrigated land to 200,000 hectares, achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuffs (we have a 16-percent deficit at present in cereals and meat), increase our exports of phosphates, textiles and agricultural produce, set up 10 more university faculties, build 10 hospitals and maintain the stability of the currency.

[Question] How can this social peace be achieved? How can stability be regained?

[Answer] The peace was broken by a minority that did not keep its word. The UGTT, the employers and the state signed a social pact in 1977. This pact has not been denounced by any of the parties and should therefore be observed. Stability lies in observing the pact. Subversion begins when you break your word and attempt to turn the trade unions into a lever for political ambitions.

[Question] To change the subject, what is Tunisia's stance with respect to the present situation in the Middle East? Do you support President as-Sadat's initiative?

[Answer] We have always started from a reality--Palestine. The Palestinian people have been the victims of a great tragedy and a great historical injustice. But this is only the moral aspect of the problem. The United Nations confirmed the partition of Palestine, and we support that legitimacy. We are in favor of the setting up of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state. We are opposed to Zionist expansionism and demand that Israel hand back the territories occupied in the last wars. Without those two conditions, no progress will be made.

[Question] Is Tunisia still prepared to mediate in the Sahara conflict?

[Answer] The Sahara issue is one which distresses us and about which we do not much like to talk. We are, of course, in favor of a compromise in which nobody will lose face, but any mediation today is difficult, not to say impossible. The two sides in the conflict are too far apart for any mediation to be feasible. The issue is, of course, not ripe.

[Question] Do the present relations between Spain and Tunisia seem satisfactory to you?

[Answer] Our two countries belong to the Mediterranean, and the problem of the Mediterranean countries is that they do not know each other well enough to be able to understand each other better. Spain, which also belongs to Europe, is very well aware that there will be no European security without the neutralization of the Mediterranean. Our two countries still have a long road to travel in their relations. But I must tell you that Spain could play an important role in our economic life because it is a medium power which could adjust itself to our requirements without imposing any quid pro quo on us.

BRIEFS

TUNISIAN ENVOY TO LIBYA--Tripoli, 13 Feb--Hamed Ammar, the Tunisian commissioner general of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, this morning presented his credentials to foreign secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki. [Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD]

DAYAN DISCUSSES TALKS WITH CARTER, VANCE

TA170958Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by 'Ido Dissentshik on a U.S. Air Force aircraft between Washington and New York--presumably on Thursday evening, 16 February]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan expressed doubts about the future of the Middle East negotiations after a day of extensive talks in Washington. After speaking with President Jimmy Carter and with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance things are still unclear, thus making an assessment of the situation difficult.

In an exclusive interview with two Israeli journalists in the U.S. Air Force aircraft flying him from Washington to New York, Mr Dayan revealed that the talks did not touch on the recent misunderstandings and disagreements between Israel and the United States. The talks focused on things that must be done in order to advance the peace process.

He has arrived at the conclusion that U.S. emphasis will continue to be placed on efforts to bring King Husayn into the negotiations by putting together a declaration of principles. It is not certain, however, that such a declaration can be achieved because it depends, to a certain extent, on As-Sadat's position. If, in the wake of the Egyptian president's visit to Washington, he changes the framework in which efforts have been made to reach such declarations, then the chances are slimmer than they were before. If he continues along the same path, however, the chances are greater.

The following is the full text of the interview:

Question: What did you discuss with President Carter?

Answer: I cannot go into details. I can talk about the subject. The subject was the continuation of the talks between us and Egypt, the issue of the declaration of principles and what to do in order to move forward in the negotiations. The President seemed to be well informed. To my surprise he knew the various formulations, where the difficulties lie and the differences of opinion. The talk lasted for 40 minutes and was more like a working talk on the issue of how to make progress. At this stage we did not deal with concrete issues--not about the settlements, not about the airfields nor about withdrawal. We only discussed definitions tied in with the declaration of principles.

Question: Was this negotiation?

Answer: No. This was a clarification talk, like a consultation, an exchange of views and opinions.

Question: Did you gain the impression that As-Sadat informed the Americans of positions with elements of flexibility which we have not seen before?

Answer: Not especially. The Americans themselves have a lot of questions--How will As-Sadat behave in this or another event? I did not gain the impression that he displayed great flexibility to the Americans.

Question: Is there a danger of a time limit being imposed on the process? Did the Americans speak in terms of weeks or months?

Answer: I do not know. They did not report to me about As-Sadat, I know that Atherton will be coming on Tuesday and they want to continue the talk intensively. I do not know more than this.

Question: Did you gain the impression that the Americans have endorsed A.-Sadat's view that it is most essential that Husayn join the process and that, first of all, an effort be made to bring him in?

Answer: An effort will certainly be made. I do not know if this is a condition for the continuation of the negotiations. At this stage the Americans want to make a major effort to bring Husayn into the talks.

Question: Will the effort be made by means of a declaration of principles?

Answer: Perhaps also by other contacts that they or the Saudi Arabians have with Husayn. As far as we are concerned, the matter will be done through a declaration of principles.

Question: Did the issue of the aircraft come up in the talk with the President?

Answer: No. We said that 'Ezer Weizman would come and deal with this.

Question: The matter of the "misunderstandings" not the matter of the "disagreements," who said what to whom about the settlements or about the President's first reaction to the prime minister's peace plan--was this discussed in the talk? [as published]

Answer: Not one word. It is interesting that this was also avoided at the press conference. No one asked, "Just a minute, you say this and they say that." Nothing. In the talks as well--in the State Department and with the President--no one touched upon these questions; as if the whole issue never existed.

Question: Did you discuss the Begin visit?

Answer: Both that of Begin and of 'Ezer. Begin's visit was mentioned in general terms but we did not go into details.

(Yesterday, President Carter officially announced that Mr Begin will come to Washington on 14 March and stay for 2 days.)

Question: During your tour, did you feel that you were succeeding in undermining the image that As-Sadat has created for himself of a distressed man wanting to make peace, with Israel refusing to give him peace?

Answer: I did not even try to say that As-Sadat was not speaking sincerely. On the contrary, I said that I believe that he wants peace. It makes no difference to me if he wants peace of if he needs it. I believe him. I did not try to claim that As-Sadat does not want peace. I think that the Jews accept some of our claims, the main one being that in the final analysis the security issue of Israel is the deciding one. We cannot rely on anyone else. No one even proposes that we do this. When As-Sadat said that he would give us security--it was a joke. The Americans do not propose (security) to us and it is a good thing that Israel does not depend on international forces or American forces to guard it; because of this Israel can also say from what places it cannot remove its army.

They accepted this approach on this issue. They also accepted the fact that in the negotiations with As-Sadat it is not we who are holding up the redemption or progress, but the fact that Husayn is not coming. With respect to this, we do not wish to give prior commitments without negotiation. There is no doubt about this. With As-Sadat, the immediate problem is whether Husayn will come to the talks. This is the reason the declaration of principles is more important to him than the settlements and the continuation clarifications with respect to Sharm ash-Shaykh. The primary thing that interests him is whether he does or does not have Husayn.

Question: Did you gain the impression that the settlement affair has put us on the diplomatic defensive?

Answer: This might have been the case during a certain period. In the interim, time has done its job. The question now is, will Husayn come or not. When you ask here what As-Sadat wanted, [your question is really] did he place the emphasis on the removal of the [settlement] points or on the demand that Israel withdraw totally from the West Bank and agree to Palestinian self-determination? (He stressed the second fact, as is also implied) in Vance's declaration of (last) Friday that not only should the settlements not exist but that there should also be a withdrawal on all fronts and Israel's security demands should be satisfied in the framework of the withdrawal and UN Resolution 242. Therefore, I think that this is slowly taking the main place (and not the settlements). Let us add to this the arms sales. For the present the issue is not that of the settlements, but the arms question and the declaration of principles. The more time passes the more we are finding out what it is that is holding up progress in the negotiations with As-Sadat. The conclusion is that he does not want to make progress with Husayn and without a suitable declaration on the Palestinian issue, and [the issue is] not the physical existence of the settlements.

Question: How can the demand for self-determination be resolved given Husayn's intention to have the West Bank restored to him?

Answer: Husayn is not in a position to say "I want the West Bank." He is saying that the Palestinians should be allowed to decide for themselves. Husayn, the Americans and the Egyptians are all building on the fact that the Palestinians will prefer to be tied to Jordan.

Question: How much weight are the Americans giving to Saudi Arabia's interests and positions?

Answer: They attach great importance to Saudi Arabia. They need the framework of relations between them and Saudi Arabia so that the oil price does not go up.

Question: Can you estimate what will come after Atherton?

Answer: I do not know. I do not know if a declaration of principles will be achieved or not. This depends on As-Sadat's position.

Question: Can you say if As-Sadat's visit advanced the process?

Answer: I do not know. Even at the end of my tour here I do not know if our predicament vis-a-vis As-Sadat is better or worse.

PERES SEES POSSIBILITY FOR SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT

TA171145Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Feb 78 p 15 TA

[Dani'el Bloch interview with Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Asked to evaluate, on the basis of his impressions, what the Egyptian president's approach is at this stage to the future of the negotiations with Israel, Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres summed up his opinion thusly:

"The time factor is working on As-Sadat. He wants to come to a settlement as quickly as possible, both because he thinks that the more time passes, the more numerous become the enemies of peace and because he fears that as time goes by, peace will become bogged down in a morass of details and procedures. [paragraph continues]

He hoped that through direct contact it would be possible to save precious time by avoiding endless debate over details and procedures. He was seriously disappointed because the question of procedures arose in the arena of the direct negotiations, but particularly because of the Israeli statements on the matter of the settlements, which almost caused him to despair of the chances of peace. What encouraged him was both the reaction of the Egyptian people and the sympathetic reaction of the people in Israel, both of which were above and beyond his expectations. I had the impression, however, that the negotiations, from his point of view, went through a period of very deep crisis and I certainly recommend not scorning the great realism with which As-Sadat conducts his policy. Such scorn could become a boomerang. He is trying consistently to conquer U.S. public opinion, after already having conquered European public opinion. He is expending considerable effort on this and has reaped considerable successes, and it will not help us to be angry about it. Anger is not policy."

What does As-Sadat want to gain now? In the view of Shim'on Peres, he wants to reach a clear conclusion on the matter of Sinai, that is, the return of full Egyptian sovereignty, theoretically and in fact, and the completion of a clear text of the principles on the matter of the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. He does not want to hold practical negotiations over these territories, but he does want a text which will permit other partners to carry on the negotiations, that is, Husayn and the representatives of the Palestinians who are not necessarily PLO. He stressed, in all his talks, the need for a link between the West Bank and Jordan.

Do As-Sadat's positions make progress possible in the negotiations? In Peres' view, in any negotiations there are parts which are possible to get moving immediately and parts which are not. Where it is possible to advance, one should get down to texts. In other parts, one should try to be satisfied with the fog of negotiations, or, as Kissinger used to call it, constructive fog. "In my view," Peres said, "all the sides must also be prepared for plain words, both with regard to mutual compromises and to agreed rejections and vagueness. It must be remembered that some of the difficulties are not in areas between Israel and Egypt, but in the Arab world, and so Israel will come up against difficulty if it has to live with a split peace--peace in the south and a threat in the north--and will have to tell its citizens that, although we are indeed living in peace, dangers are still expected. This makes rejections and vagueness essential in certain matters."

We asked Peres whether, in his evaluation, it would be possible to find a compromise on the matter of the settlements in Sinai which would meet the positions in principle of both sides? "At this moment I would avoid saying anything about this," he answered, "but I think that we have not yet exhausted all the possibilities in all spheres and we have not yet tried out all ideas." Peres added that he had explained to As-Sadat the problem of the settlements in depth from the viewpoint of the Labor Movement.

In a talk with Shim'on Peres as chairman of the Labor Party and head of the opposition, it is impossible to avoid questions as to how he felt personally at that meeting with As-Sadat and whether he had asked his interlocutor why he had waited with his initiative until the rule of Begin and the Likud. Peres replied that As-Sadat repeated that the matter of peace began with the interim settlements after the Yom Kippur war and now the time is ripe for a comprehensive settlement. In his view, it would have been impossible to begin on the road to peace without the interim settlements and now the time has come for a compreshensive settlement. [paragraph continues]

The talk between them was mainly devoted to the future, not to the past. The two of them avoiding discussing people in the Cabinet and only mentioned people from the Labor camp. As-Sadat asked Peres about Ben-Gurion and had some good things to say about Golda Meir. Peres asked in order to get a clear idea of what things were disturbing Egypt, what were the expectations, what was the character of the obstacles and what could be overcome. "I left with a mixed feelings," Peres said, "that there are indeed real obstacles between us but also with a feeling of confidence that must not be hidden. I believe implicitly that, despite the difficulties, which must not be minimized, it is possible to find a common path and together to cross the river separating us. I see it as my duty to contribute to removing the difficulties, even through restraint in speaking. I have already said that we are an alternative to the Cabinet but not an opposition to peace. I believe that we are dealing with something serious. This is the greatest opportunity we have had over the last 30 years, therefore there is no point in continuing to discuss the past, let us leave that to historians."

Does Peres believe that a Cabinet headed by the Labor Party and on the basis of its platform would be better able to conduct the negotiations? "In order to reply accurately and honestly to the question, it must be said that the desire for peace is equal for all of us, but I believe that with the policy of the Alinement and the Alinement's experience, we would have succeeded in concluding the negotiations. However, we are not sitting and praying for the Cabinet to fail. This is not a private matter. I gave the prime minister all my ideas, that is my duty and I did it willingly. But it is impossible to ignore the Cabinet's mistakes: First of all, it was a mistake to believe that from beginning to end it would be possible to bring the negotiations to a speedy conclusion. Secondly, it was a mistake to put such great emphasis on the matter of Sinai, without leaving positions of political retreat in our hands. This went together with the mistaken belief that far-reaching concessions in Sinai would release the Cabinet from the need for more advanced negotiations over Judaea and Samaria. This is not just a tactical mistake, since it also springs from ideological reasons. The third mistake was over the matter of the settlements. The Cabinet thought, mistakenly, that settled zones would be easier for Egypt than military zones. Now it appears that it is easier for Egypt to take settlements under the title of "defense" than under that of settlement. When the negotiations began, settlement and the "land-scratching" in Sinai should have been frozen. I did not understand the need for that at the time, and now I understand it even less. The result is very negative for Israel both in the eyes of the world and even in my own eyes. The matter is not clear from the aspect of the method, the place or the timing. Somebody once said that the wisdom of policy is in the question of timing. If this is so, the failure of policy is because of a failure in timing."

Peres also criticized the Cabinet's policy with regard to the United States. It is clear that there is great sensitivity on both sides to the U.S. position and Israel and Egypt are, with the aid of a thermometer, checking the degree of heat Washington gives each one. Peres mentioned that the Labor Party always said it was necessary to coordinate policy with the United States, but we did not say that we had to do everything it said. It is possible to argue--although without making it an argument with a personal character--that nobody from any of the previous cabinets ever came back from the United States and said that everything was good. Peres compared the foreign policy of the present Cabinet to a water faucet whose cold and hot water controls are not connected, and so the water either burns or freezes.

Toward the end of our discussions, Peres added one more lesson from his talks: Just how much both sides tend to attach almost insulting intentions to anything said on the other side. "I had the impression that the Egyptians felt that the matter of the settlements had been deliberately intended to harm Egypt. As against that, it never occurred to them that negative echoes would be aroused by the phrase 'Shylock.'"

To conclude, Peres was prepared to reveal one topic from his talk with the Egyptian president: The last part of the talk was devoted to the chances of regional cooperation in the Middle East. Peres insisted, in his words, on the need for cooperation to prevent pollution of the sea and the rivers and to make the wilderness bloom. As-Sadat caught fire on this matter and said that the most important thing in life is science. He very much admires Israel's scientific skill and he is sure that there is room for great cooperation in this field.

PERES COMMENTS ON MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS AT PRESS CONFERENCE

TA161700Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Feb 78 TA

[From the afternoon newsreel]

[Text] Israel's political situation is serious. This assessment was made today at a press conference by the chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres and the chairman of the party's Foreign Relations Department, Mikha Harish. This was their assessment on their return from the Socialist International in Vienna. They also claimed that there is no substantive Israeli answer to the intensive Egyptian information campaign. On the sale of American F-15's to Saudi Arabia, Mr Peres said: [begin recording]

[Peres] Whoever gets a plane like this is getting significant military power. He also becomes a military entity, and previously Saudi Arabia was not. In my opinion, this will make the security situation in the Middle East more serious. As for Egypt, in my opinion, I cannot understand why it was necessary to start supplying Egypt with arms while the negotiations are going on.

[Unidentified correspondent] Shim'on Peres refused to respond to Mr Yizhaq Rabin's remarks on this issue. Yizhaq Rabin said that Shim'on Peres, who used to be defense minister, wanted to make the purchase of aircraft dependent on the production of parts in Israel and in this way procurement was delayed.

Shim'on Peres attacked the government's information activities and claimed that its activities are causing a lack of support among the European public.

[Peres] This information is accompanied by acts such as settlement in Qidmat Sinai which no government spokesman has been able to explain in an acceptable manner. This causes severe propaganda damage to us. No one understands why, when the Egyptian delegation came here, we began to work the land in Qidmat Sinai--a place where we have no demands. No one proposes establishing a settlement in Bi'r Lahfan or Abu 'Uwaylilah. Why did we do this?

[Unidentified correspondent] This government has lost the confidence of the people, he stressed.

[Peres] This government, as any new government--perhaps more than any new government--was given a lot of good will. I must say to its credit that it has succeeded in wasting this in a very short time with respect to the political and economic spheres, with respect to the unity of the government and its ability to speak with one voice and exert influence in a concentrated manner. I propose that the members of the government read all their severe criticism of previous governments in order to write a textbook for themselves, if it could be of any use. [end recording]

Further Details

TA161320Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A reaction to the proposed U.S. arms deal by the leader of Israel's opposition, Shim'on Peres, came this morning at a news conference in Tel Aviv. [begin recording]

[Peres] The F-15 is the best fighter plane which exists in modern technology. There is not a plane that can match it. Furthermore, it is a long-distance fighter, and from Saudi Arabia, practically every point in Israel can be reached. It is equipped with very modern weapon systems and it is under current production. Now giving it to Saudi Arabia is like inviting her immediately to become a military entity in the middle of a quite tense situation. On the Egyptian point of view, I mean on the supply of fighters to Egypt, I can hardly understand why it should have been done now, in the midst of negotiations. Since I am hopeful that we shall conclude the negotiations in not too long a time. And I believe that such a decision should have been waited [as heard] upon the completion of the talks, of the negotiations for peace.

[Question] What do you believe are the political motivations behind the deal, on the part of the United States?

[Answer] The supply of arms to the Saudis, I think is basically an American decision; in my judgment not enough related to the existing situation in the Middle East. On the Egyptians, probably the American Government thought it will have a good effect upon the situation, and here we differ. We feel and think differently.

[Question] Do you believe the Americans are using the issue of arms in any way as a point to apply pressure on Israel, to show more flexibility in its political stand?

[Answer] If that's the way that the American Government thinks, I simply feel they are wrong. This won't introduce any sort of flexibility in the negotiations. I believe what we have to use is reason, not pressure. [end recording]

[Announcer] Opposition leader Shim'on Peres was interviewed by Shim'on Ayalon.

HA'AREZ SEES POSSIBLE CHANGE IN BALANCE OF FORCES IN MIDEAST

TA161148Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 16 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The supply of a large number of F-15's to Saudi Arabia and the transfer of advance U.S. technology to the Egyptian Army would have an outstanding effect within a few years on the balance of power in the Middle East and would make it most difficult for Israel in the case of war. This is the unanimous conclusion of almost all the security and military personnel whom I questioned on this matter.

Another important conclusion springs from the fact that Saudi Arabia, with the receipt of the F-15's, would become a dangerous confrontation country. This means that Israel would have to plan vigorous military actions against Saudi Arabia in the case of war, despite the fact that Washington has a vital interest there.

Another conclusion, insisted on by HA'AREZ even before the publication of the U.S. decision on the weapons, is that the supply of modern aircraft to Saudi Arabia would force Israel to harden its position with regard to the airfields in Sinai, particularly the 'Ezyon airfield near Elat. [paragraph continues]

The F-15 deal with Saudi Arabia strengthens the position of those security personnel who claim that under no circumstances should we give up all the Sinai airfields and that the question of the fields is now even more important than the question of the settlements in the Rafah approaches.

The pouring of such a quantity of F-15's into such a backward country as Saudi Arabia, which could have been content with less sophisticated aircraft for the defense of its oil fields, would make more difficult and even disrupt the plans to remove the armies of the region in the framework of a peace agreement. This aim, which appears most important to the Israeli military personnel, could not, in their view, be realized as it should because Israel would have to take into account the Saudi arms reserves which would include long-range aircraft of strategic importance. It would be possible easily to transfer them to Egypt, which would also have U.S. aircraft.

Security sources said yesterday that it has been clear for some time that Washington would respond to some of the demands of Saudi Arabia and Egypt for new weapons. This was even hinted to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman at an early stage. However, it appears that there were several surprised individuals in Israel at the U.S. decision.

The number of F-15's Washington has decided to sell to Saudi Arabia would be greater than the number in the Israeli Air Force, which also has to stand up against the most modern Soviet aircraft of Syria, Iraq and Egypt. It had been thought that this decision would be held up until the peace negotiations reached a more advanced stage.

The dramatic cut, which has a symbolic significance as regards the administration's position, is the Israeli request for planes. The request for F-16's had been authorized by the previous administration. At first the reference was to 250 aircraft, afterward to 150. Those in favor of cuts in the previous U.S. administration put forward a proposal to sell Israel 125 F-16's. The surprise was, then, at the cut of up to 70 aircraft by the Carter administration to reduce the financial aid to the IDF and security in the coming years.

HA'AREZ REACTS TO BRZEZINSKI REMARKS ON AID

TA161130Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 16 Feb 78 p 9 TA

[Avraham Tal commentary: "Zbang from Zbig"]

[Text] The U.S. Presidet's adviser on national security affairs, Zbigniew Brzezinski, has said that every Israeli costs the U.S. taxpayer $600 a year. He made this statement on the eve of President as-Sadat's arrival in the United States, at a closed meeting of Democratic Party contributors in Washington. The remarks were published in HA'AREZ on 2 February.

It could have been expected that the Israeli Cabinet would not pass lightly over this comment by Dr Brzezinski. It may be that under normal circumstances it would not have done so, except that at the end of last week and at the beginning of this week the Cabinet was occupied in reacting to the remarks of Secretary of State Vance. Thus it apparently did not find the time to discuss and react to Brzezinski's remarks. We must not let these remarks pass without referring to them.

We do not know exactly how Dr Brzezinski arrived at his calculations, but he apparently divided $1.8 billion, which is the total aid given to Israel by the United States in a year, by 3 million inhabitants. We do not want to be petty, but it is essential to point out that this calculation errs on the surplus side. There are more than 3.5 million Israelis (Dr Brzezinski credited the dollars to the Jewish inhabitants of Israel) and not all we receive is a grant. Some of it is a loan--although on favorable conditions--which we will have to repay. Why should he exaggerate? Even $500 per head is an appreciable sum, even more so when it is translated into Israeli pounds under inflation and at a floating rate.

In any case, we detect a note of resentment in Zbig's remarks, and the question is: Why? It may be that he thinks that the money is being spent for some purpose that does not fit in with what he thinks is correct and proper. If this is so, he can be soothed by several examples. The United States resents the aid Israel is giving Ethiopia? Relax, the foreign minister spoke specifically of the sale of arms, that is, this is a commercial deal which does not involve any subsidy.

Does Dr Brzezinski fear that the U.S. taxpayer is financing the establishment of settlements or the ground work near Bi'r Lahfan? No fear, the financing is from Israeli Ministry of Agriculture funds and/or the Jewish National Fund. The archeological digs in Shilo? The financing comes from the budget of the Ministry of Education and Culture or from the budget of the Ministry of Defense or from the military government--at any rate, the reference is to a tiny sum which it is not worth dealing with at all.

No, not only does Dr Brzezinski not need to fear that the U.S. taxpayer's money is being spent incorrectly, he can be quite confident that most of it is being spent for good purposes--in the United States. It is well known that a very large part of the U.S. Government's aid finances Israeli purchases in the United States and it has already been pointed out more than once that such purchases supply orders for U.S. factories and employment for U.S. workers.

From all this another advantage has grown, one which was entirely unexpected, for the United States: Egypt is also demanding that the United States supply it with arms. It is clear that Israel will not be able to agree that the United States should become Egypt's arms supplier under the current conditions. Our foreign minister has already announced, however, that Israel will not oppose the supply of U.S. arms to Egypt when there is peace. It is clear that then new horizons will open up to the U.S. arms industry.

There are other sums of money from the U.S. aid which in fact are returned to the United States. For example, an IDF general protesting not having been appointed chief of staff--where will he be sent? For further study in the United States, thus a minimum of $50,000 returns to the U.S. taxpayers. An average tour by a minister and his entourage in the United States costs $20,000 (to be multiplied by 52 times a year). The minister of the interior proposes that he and his colleagues have Oldsmobiles--another injection of encouragement for the U.S. economy.

In this way the sums returning to the United States mount up and encourage and give incentives to its economy. We know very well that the United States is not giving Israel aid for such selfish reasons. It is doing this because it is interested in a strong, stable and democratic Israel in the Middle East. [paragraph continues]

If Dr Brzezinski does his accounts correctly, he will find that the United States is getting this at a cut rate, practically free. Therefore we (instead of the Israeli Cabinet, which is, as stated, occupied in protesting against the remarks by Secretary of State Vance) are protesting against the remarks by the adviser for national security, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

MINISTER PAT SAYS YAMIT WILL BE A BORDER TOWN

TA161109Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 16 Feb 78 p 5 TA

[By 'Amos Hadad]

[Excerpt] "I believe that Yamit will be a border town. Its administrative status will not be harmed, and no compromise is possible on this matter in the peace program. The inhabitants of Yamit do not have to be concerned that someone will demand that they evacuate the place," Minister of Construction and Housing Gid'on Pat said yesterday on a visit to Ashqelon as the guest of the municipality. Pat reported that his ministry intends to build another 500 aparments in Yamit in the near future and will also carry out a development and building program on Yamit's sea shore.

KAHANA TO BE ARRESTED IF HE TRIES TO ENTER HEBRON

TA161139Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Feb 78 p 8 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria command will make every effort to foil Rabbi Kahana's plan to enter Hebron and take over the Hadassa Hospital in the town center. According to information which has reached me, a detention order has already been prepared and signed against Rabbi Kahana and his entourage and it will be used the moment the man tries to put his plan into operation.

The Judaea and Samaria Command will arrest Rabbi Kahana when he enters the area of Judaea and Samaria and, for this purpose, it will erect check points on the routes leading into Mt Hebron.

I have learned from reliable sources that tension is already rising in the streets of Hebron and steps are being taken against the provocation which Rabbi Kahana announced in public. The inhabitants of the town are demanding that the heads of the community make the military government aware of the gravity of the expected reaction and they have already asked the military government to foil the plan.

Rabbi Kahana is due to leave for Hebron at the head of his people on Sunday, order to settle in the abandoned Hadassa hospital near the Hebron market. Kahana claims that he and his people intend to redeem, in a legal action, the building (which was a religious college and later a hospital) since that building is under Jewish ownership.

Rabbi Kahana revealed that he was advised before the publication of this plan by Rabbi Levinger, of Qiryat Arba', that he, Levinger, as a member of the Gush Emunim Secretariat, could only give him his blessing and not take part in the action.

As will be recalled, Kahana carried out a similar provocation a year ago, when he led a group of his supporters into Nabulus (on the eve of the Knesset election) and caused a large riot. At the time he was trying to settle in Grizim and demanded to meet with the mayor, Bassam ash-Shak'a. Ash-Shak'a refused to meet him and even demanded that the military government evacuate Kahana's people from Nabulus as a means of calming down emotions.

At the time there was criticism of the military government for having permitted Kahana's entry into Nabulus. After the event, military government personnel did indeed apologise to the Nabulus inhabitants for Kahana's having insulted and abused them.

Rabbi Kahana has recently sent cables to the prime minister's office, asking to meet with him, in the hope of receiving his blessing. So far he has received no reply. As opposed to that, from the moment the matter became known to military government personnel, they have been preparing to foil the plan. Among other things, it is thought that, despite Kahana's announcement that he will go openly at the head of his people, he may try to evade the check points which have been set at the entrances to the town and try to penetrate in another way with the aim of taking over the building.

People with whom I spoke believed that a provocation of the sort as planned by Kahana is likely to cause a renewed falreup in Hebron and, apart from the blow at the relative calm now prevailing in Mt Hebron, it will cause tension and rioting in the territories, which will do Israel great damage in the international arena.

EFRAYIM 'EVRON TO BECOME AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

TA161636Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Feb 78 TA

[From the afternoon newsreel]

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to the United States, Simcha Dinitz, will end his term of office at the end of 1978, and not, as was previously planned, at the end of summer. This has been learned from the Foreign Ministry by our political correspondent. Ambassador Dinitz will be replaced by Foreign Ministry Director General Efrayim 'Evron.

EMBASSY IN KOREA TO CLOSE, ENVOY TO RESIDE IN TOKYO

TA170817Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Israel has decided to close its embassy in South Korea. Israel has had an embassy in Seoul, the capital, for 14 years. South Korea has no embassy in Israel, its ambassador resides in Rome.

Israel has frequently asked South Korea to open an embassy here, but Korea has refused, fearing Arab reaction. It was thus decided to close the embassy in Seoul.

The Israeli ambassador will most probably be residing in Tokyo. This does not imply a break in relations.

WEST BANK TERRORIST CELLS FOUND IN LAST 2 MONTHS

TA141317Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Over the last 2 months, about 20 terrorist cells were uncovered in Judaea and Samaria. In the wake of the arrests, it became clear that the terrorists had succeeded in bringing into the territories hundreds of detonators and large amounts of explosives. These were at their disposal for a long time and in this way they constructed homemade bombs. The assumption is that most of the detonators were smuggled through Haifa port. Our correspondent says that during the same time that the terrorist cells were uncovered, there was a considerable effort on the part of the terrorist organizations to increase the number of their cells.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERS MESSAGE TO SHAH

LD161624Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi Arabian foreign minister, was received in audience today by the Shah. The foreign minister delivered to the shah a message from King Khalid. The prince, who arrived in Teheran on a brief visit, lasting only a few hours, left our country this afternoon.

IRAN, ROMANIA SIGN LETTER ON BARTER TRADE DEAL

LD161254Y Teheran PARS in English 1146 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--Iran and Romania signed a letter of understanding for commercial cooperation today. According to the letter, the two countries will have a 300-million-dollar barter trade volume for 1978, a remarkable increase over 1977. Iran will trade buses, textiles, shoes, aluminum products, oil and oil products, petrochemicals, and cotton for Romanian machinery, foodstuffs, iron manufactured products and meat.

Since Iran has focused its attention on industrialisation, the Ministry of Commerce is allocating the major share of its exports to industrial products. Therefore, in its letter of understanding with Romania, 80 percent of its exports will be industrial products. Another element of the letter is the increase in the export of non-oil products which comprise 60 percent of the total exports to Romania.

Another step taken by the Ministry of Commerce is to expand its commercial cooperation with those countries willing to sign agreements with Iran on a barter basis.

In addition to the letter of understanding, the Romanian delegation has signed other agreements worth 15 million dollars for the purchase of Iranian goods and at present are negotiating with Iranian officials for the purchase of dates.

The letter was signed by the Iranian undersecretary at the Ministry of Commerce, Hosein Mo'adi, and the Romanian minister of foreign trade and international cooperation, Mr Estoien. [name and title as received]

BRAZIL DISCUSSES TRADE AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

PY171300Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 22 PY

[Text] Teheran--A Brazilian delegation headed by Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, Foreign Ministry secretary general, met yesterday with Hushang Ansari, executive director of Iran's National Oil Company, to discuss possibilities to export more Brazilian products in order to buy Iranian oil.

The Brazilian delegation also met yesterday with Mohammad Yeganeh, Iran's economic and finance minister [State and Director Plan Organization]. Nothing was revealed about this meeting.

According to information previously given by Brazilian diplomats, Brazil wants to buy $1 billion worth of oil, provided Iran agrees to import at least $500 million worth of Brazilian goods.

Up until now, the two countries have had $400 million worth of annual trade, but only one-fourth of that amount has been from Brazil to Iran, the source said.

AFGHANISTAN

PRESIDENT DAUD TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA 21-23 FEB

LD161320Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1215 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade--At the invitation of Josip Broz Tito, president of the republic, Mohammad Daud, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, will pay an official friendly visit to Yugoslavia from 21 to 23 February 1978.

BANGLADESH

GENERAL ZIA ATTENDS SYDNEY COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

For radio and press service accounts of the activities and speeches of General Ziaur Rahman, president of Bangladesh, at the Commonwealth regional meeting in Sydney, Australia, see the Australasia section of the 14 February issue and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

INDIA

DESAI RETURNS FROM SYDNEY COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

BK170756Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister is back home after attending the regional meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government for Asia and the Pacific held in Australia. Mr Morarji Desai was received at the airport by the vice president, Mr Jatti, central ministers and senior officials.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the prime minister described the Sydney meeting as successful and said it served the purpose for which it met. The discussions were very friendly, and it gave an opportunity to all to understand each other.

He said the working groups, particularly on energy, set up by the conference will meet soon to work out the details.

Asked if there is any proposal to ban the Ananda Marg, Mr Desai said that he has not given any thought to it as yet.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SYRIA

BK161530Y Delhi ISI in English 1501 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK

[Text] India and Syria will exchange experts, technical and scientific personnel, conduct joint research and grant scholarships for specialized training. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on 17 February between the two countries by George Fernandes, minister of industry, and Shutaywi Sayfu, the Syrian minister of industry.

The agreement was concluded following detailed discussions with the Syrian delegation comprising Shutaywi Sayfu, Syrian minister of industry; Rassem Raslam, deputy minister, engineering; and Mohammed Fares Ali Ahmed, secretary, ministry of industry.

The agreement would give further momentum to the wise-ranging cooperation between the two countries by providing essential linkages in the deputation of experts, feasibility studies and implementation of projects in the priority sectors of the economy.

The Syrian delegation, which arrived in India a week ago, visited the engineering trade fair, Hindustan Machine Tools, Banglare; the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi; Bokaro Steel Limited, and Engineering Industries in Calcutta.

The visit of the delegation was in pursuance of the protocol signed between Minister of Industry George Fernandes and the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya at Damascus on 22 October 1977. The protocol, which represents an important and significant development of industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries, referred to various industrial projects specified in discussions which Fernandes had with the president of Syria, the Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister and the Syrian ministers for railways and transportation and oil and mineral resources.

Followup action of the specified programmes of cooperation indicated in the protocal between the two countries has been effected expeditiously. A team of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is currently in Syria for concluding a service contract for exploration of oil resources in the Palmyra region of Syria. An Indian delegation visited Syria in the second week of February 1978 and concluded agreed implementation programmes for several projects in Syria. These are: Techno-economic feasibility studies will be conducted for setting up agro-industrial complexes in Syria and deputation of Indian personnel for the Syrian food processing industry. Specialised experts would be provided from India for the planningof textile industries and deputation of skilled workmen. Major Indian textile machinery manufacturers would cooperate in setting up third country projects. Indian expertise would also be provided for village weaving industries and for establishment of power looms. It has also been agreed to carry out feasibility studies for the establishment of a composite textile mill in Syria.

High-level technical know-how would be provided by India in prefab housing technology as well as in the field of low cost housing.

India would assist in carrying out studies for a hot rolling mill, expansion of the welded pipe factory and the setting up of a workshop tools factory.

India would also assist Syria in setting up workshops for the manufacture and galvanising of transmission towers, construction of plants for substations and sharing of know-how in rural electrification.

An expert Syrian delegation would visit India in the second half of 1978 for further negotiations on exports from India of iron and steel items and for the development of the iron and steel industry.

Trial supplies are being negotiated from Syria for rock phosphate. India would assist in the probing of Syrian phosphate ore reserves and in the beneficiation of leaner phosphate ore. A Syrian expert delegation would visit India for further negotiations.

The Syrian minister of industry conveyed his appreciation of the capabilities and capacities developed by India in the industrial field, particularly in sectors relating to cement, steel, fertilisers, machine tools, civil construction, power generation, transmission and rural electrification and smallscale and rural industries, which were particularly relevant in promoting industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries. He also appreciated the quick follow-up action taken after the signing of the protocol between the Union Minister of Industry George Fernandes and the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya at Damascus in October 1977.

SOVIET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT 1 MARCH

BK161607Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Some major projects are expected to be cleared at the meeting of the Indo-Soviet joint commission which begins its meeting in New Delhi on the 1st of next month. The weeklong meeting will examine various projects including an alumina project based on the east coast bauxite.

The Soviet delegation will be led by Mr Arkhipov, Soviet deputy prime minister. The Indian delegation will be headed by the minister for external affairs, Mr Vajpayee.

PAKISTAN

HAQ COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

BK161642Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that holding an election is the sole aim of the present government and that if all goes well, elections will be held in the not too distant future. He said this while talking to a delegation of U.S. editors this afternoon in Rawalpindi.

The chief martial law administrator said the situation now is that certain imperatives must be completed before the final date for elections can be announced. These included weeding out corrupt politicians from politics through the legal process, bringing elements of discipline and sanity into the country's politics, restoring and building up institutions destroyed by the previous government and cleaning up the mess inherited by the present government.

He said he cannot give a definite date when this process will be completed, but he reaffirmed that elections will definitely be held. The urgent task facing the country is to restore the country's economy and establish it on a firm foundation.

In reply to a question, the chief martial law administrator declared categorically that he has no political ambitions and after performing the duty that he has undertaken, he will hand over power to the elected representatives.

The chief martial law administrator was asked about Pakistan's relations with the countries of the region. He said that we are passing through a phase of normalizing relations between Pakistan and India. He said Pakistan is making every effort to normalize these relations. These relations, however, should be viewed not only in the context of the three wars between the two countries but also in the context of the Kashmir issue, which is the biggest obstacle in normalizing relations. Pakistan has been trying to solve this problem for the past 30 years on the basis of the UN resolutions which declare that the people of the state should exercise the right of self-determination. Another obstacle in normalizing relations is mutual mistrust and (?apprehension), which ought to be removed.

He said that during the Indian external affairs minister's visit to Pakistan, he reassured him that a big country like India should not feel threatened by Pakistan. It behooves India as the larger country to make gestures, and he hoped that this would be forthcoming.

He thanked Indian Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai for extending an invitation to him to visit India and said he will make the visit at the appropriate time.

About relations with Afghanistan, he said the two countries are linked together through the bonds of religion, language and history. He said he is happy to say that our relations with Afghanistan are the finest and that credit for this should go to President Mohammad Daud. He said he is confident that these relations will further improve in the coming years.

The chief martial law administrator was asked about the role of the superpowers. He said all three superpowers--China, the Soviet Union and the United States--have a definite role, and none of them can afford to pursue an isolationist policy. Mentioning in particular China's role, he said China does not have any hegemonic designs and has played a definite role in establishing peace. He said China supports the developing countries both morally and materially. He said Pakistan is grateful to China for its unprecedented assistance in almost all fields.

The chief martial law administrator was also asked about Pakistan's food and population problem. He said his government is giving top priority to both problems. He said that, according to World Bank experts, Pakistan could increase its agricultural output by as much as 35 percent, simply by employing modern agricultural techniques. He said the present government is giving attention to this problem.

He said his government is concerned with the trend of a growing population and that its desire is to reduce the present rate of growth from 3.5 percent to 2 percent. He said they plan to tackle this problem systematically and to that end they are introducing a social welfare and rural improvement program. A bureau will be set up under his direct supervision and will be combined with the country's health services. This program will be implemented on an emergency basis, and the people will be made aware of the dangers of the population explosion.

The chief martial law administrator expressed regret over the performance of the 20,000 workers recruited by the previous government in the planning commission. He said these people were not used for the purpose for which they were recruited but were instead used as the tool for a particular political party, and thus, valuable money, some 170 million rupees, was wasted.

BRIEFS

QATARI MINISTER VISITS DACCA--The minister of labor and social welfare of Qatar, Mr 'Ali Ahmad al-Ansari, arrived in Dacca on 15 February on a week's visit to Banghadesh. Talking to newsmen, the Qatari minister expressed the hope that cooperation between Bangladesh and Qatar would continue to grow in various fields. The minister said during his talks he will discuss the transfer of more manpower from Bangladesh to his country. He said at present about 12,000 Bangladeshis are working in Qatar and hoped that the number will be substantially increased in the future. [Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK]

AFGAN MINISTER IN BANGLADESH--The Afgan minister for industries and mines, Mr Abdul Tawab Asefi, arrived in Dacca on 15 February on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the airport by the presidential adviser for industry, Mr Jamalludin Ahmed. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Afgan minister said the prime objective of his visit was to see for himself the achievements of Bangladesh in various fields of development and to meet the brotherly and friendly people of this country. He expressed the hope that the existing friendly relations between the two countries will grow further in the future through mutual cooperation in various fields.

PAKISTAN ZONAL ADMINISTRATOR--Lt Gen Mohammad Iqbal took over on 15 February as the martial law administrator, Zone C. He succeeds Lt Gen Jahanzeb Arbab who has been posted to CENTO. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK]

UK FOOD AID TO PAKISTAN--Britain is to supply 10,000 tons of wheat as food aid to Pakistan. This aid is worth over 1 million pounds sterling. Delivery of the wheat shipment is likely to take place in April. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTAN-FRG AGREEMENT--Under an agreement signed in Islamabad on 16 February, the Federal Republic of Germany is to provide Pakistan with technical assistance to improve livestock breeding in Punjab. Besides other facilities, the FRG will provide Pakistan with equipment and spare parts worth DM 1.7 million. The agreement also provides for training faciltities to Pakistanis. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK]

JAPANESE AID TO SRI LANKA--Japan has agreed to grant increased assistance to Sri Lanka. The minister of finance and planning held further discussions in Colombo 2 February with a visiting Japanese mission. Japan has already made available rupees 292 million as commodity aid in the form of loans this year. In addition, Japan has also agreed to provide commodity aid on a grant basis amounting to rupees 80 million for the purchase of fertilizers, tractors and agrochemicals. The Sri Lankan Government has also been informed that the Japanese Government is considering a grant for a further rupees 80 million as emergency assistance. These commodity loans and grants are considerably more than the level of assistance given in the past. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Feb 78 BK]

IMF AID TO SRI LANKA--Substantial aid will be given by the International Monetary Fund in the next 3 years in appreciation of the Sri Lankan Government's policy of shifting from consumption expenditure to investment for economic development. This was stated by Mr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the IMF, at a news conference held in Colombo 1 February. He said the IMF aid amounting to rupees 5 billion granted to Sri Lankan Government to meet the balance of payments deficit was only the beginning of close cooperation between the IMF and the Sri Lankan Government. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK]

NORWEGIAN AID TO SRI LANKA--Norway has agreed to give aid up to rupees 507 million to Sri Lanka for the years 1978-81. This was the result of negotiations conducted between the minister of finance and planning and the Norwegian ambassador in New Delhi accredited to Sri Lanka and Norway's representatives in Sri Lanka. This is the highest volume of aid ever granted by Norway to Sri Lanka. Aid from Norway is given entirely on a grant basis and is not repayable by Sri Lanka. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK]

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